Ontario

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April 21, 1993

Mr. Chris Brown
Ottawa Branch President
Allergy and Environmental Health Association
General Delivery
Moose Factory
Ottawa, Ontario
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Dear Mr. Brown:

This is in reply to your letter enquiring about steps taken, since I met with you, in the area of health problems related to sensitivities.

For your information, I have attached a letter from Dr. Gerald Ross, to the Editor of the Toronto Star, which summarizes the Ministry's activities arising from the Thomson and Zimmerman reports. To date, our thrust has been in support of feasibility research studies, to develop measures of sensitivities.

On the advice of the Provincial Advisory Committee on Environmental Hypersensitivity, in the fall of 1992, the Ministry began implementation of several new initiatives to address problems in this area. The Advisory Committee recommended that the focus of research should now move to clinical aspects of the problem. To achieve this, we plan to establish a joint clinical research program, where individuals with sensitivities or other non-specific disorders may come for complete assessment and appropriate referral, and where research on diagnosis, treatment, and eventually, causation and prevention may take place. We anticipate that arrangements for the clinical and research aspects of the joint program will be completed soon, and an announcement of the clinic will be made. The clinic will be open to patients who are referred for assessment by their community physician. Patients will also be able to contact the clinic directly.

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Mr. Chris Brown

The Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines, 1989 require boards of health to provide programs that include the investigation of health problems related to environmental causes. If you know of instances where local boards of health are not living up to this legislated mandate, I suggest that you bring these to the attention of Dr. Richard Schabas (416-327-7392).

I hope we can continue to work together to deal with this challenging health issue.

Yours sincerely,

Michael B. Decter
Deputy Minister